

LIVES LOST

AND PROPERTY DESTROYED

By an Unprecedented Storm and Flood.

A Bridge Crowded with People Swept Away.

And of the More than a Score on it but Eight Saved.

Nine People Meet their Death on Caldwell's Run.

RUIN NEVER EXPERIENCED

In the History of the Fair Ohio Valley Before.

Bridges and Railroads Washed Away Bodily.

The Flood Gates of Heaven are Opened Wide.

And the City and Vicinity Literally Deluged.

LOSS OF LIFE UNKNOWN.

But the List Increased by the Later Returns.

While the Damage to Goods and Property.

And the Growing Crops is Beyond Estimate.

The Darkest Page in the Annals of Wheeling.

Never before in the history of Wheeling or the vicinity was there experienced a storm as terrific in its volume and fury and as appalling in its effects as that which began within a few minutes of six o'clock last evening and raged with seemingly ever increasing fury for more than an hour. Considerable hail accompanied the rain, and at times the lightning was terrific. The volume of the rain fall was certainly three times as great as ever fell in the same length of time, and the loss of life, while it is difficult to ascertain definitely how many people perished, exceeded that resulting from any casualty in the annals of the city. Streets were flooded in many cases from house to house, cellars filled or nearly filled, and in many cases the first stories of buildings were invaded by setting yellow tide which rolled down from the hills in mad torrents.

The damage and destruction to merchants' stocks cannot yet be definitely estimated. Thousands of dollars will not cover it, while in the suburbs the crops are a total loss.

The early and most heart-rending reports of loss of life came from Caldwell's run, where not less than nine lives were lost, four houses swept away, great crops washed in the natural gas mains, the city bridges destroyed and the water and gas supplies of the Eighth ward cut off. Shortly before 10 o'clock the Hempfield bridge of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Company over the creek at Main street was swept away, with many people on it, and how many lost their lives cannot yet be reliably told.

The bridge of the Elm Grove railroad over Woods run at Leatherwood was washed away and that road badly damaged by washouts. The Pittsburgh, Wheeling & Kentucky road at the foot of Ninth street was washed out badly, and at other points the road was rendered impassable by mud and stones washed upon it. The same road's trestle on the extension south of the creek was damaged just after an Ohio River freight train had safely passed over.

APPEARANCE OF THE STREETS.

Shortly after the rain began to fall most heavily—about 6:15—the water in the streets got beyond the capacity of the gutters and sewers to carry it off, and the streets almost without exception were converted into raging rivers.

Twelfth street was one sheet of water from the creek to the river and above Chapline was almost as bad. At Chapline a tributary stream of the thick, yellow fluid joined and swelled the main flood, while a part of the water was diverted on Chapline southward. At Market another tributary stream of water and mud swept into Twelfth street and even across Twelfth street and on down Market, which was one sheet of water from the creek to the river. Main street sent down from the hill another stream from early on, which, joining the swollen tide at Twelfth, flooded the Western Union office a foot deep, and debouched into the river a raging torrent.

At Fourteenth street the scene was the same, and all the streets in the main part of town, north and south of the creek, were like it.

The strength of the current was awful. Large stones and boulders were rolled over and over down the streets, the water splashing over them as when their course was obstructed. Where the water struck a post or a telegraph pole the force of its onward rush carried it straight up in the air four or five feet.

Tons of earth and stone were washed into the river, the volume of water being sufficient to swell the river three feet in five minutes. Boxes, barrels, cans and tons of debris were in the flood. At Sixteenth street, on Market the temporary sea floated a large telegraph pole clear across the street.

SOME OF THE EFFECTS.

When the water receded, the scene was one like of which had never been seen before. Mud, stones and all sorts of debris were piled a foot and in some places two feet deep on streets and several inches deep on some sidewalks. On Market street below Twelfth the mud covered the street car track so that it was impossible and a force of men were put to work last night cleaning it off.

At Heymann's brewery, in Manchester, the hard pike road which had stood the ravages of ages was washed out of existence, and a large beer wagon which stood in the open space near the brewery stables was buried up to the seat in mud and stones.

A large hole was broken by the force of the water in the big main sewer of brick on a line between Chapline and Chapline, and a similar break was caused in the sewer on Eoff street, south of Seventeenth.

The Seventeenth street bridge was believed to be weakened again, but how serious the damage might be could not be told last night.

On Eoff street, at the head of the hill in streams, and filled houses so deep that when the flood receded sediment was left on the tops of stoves. Furniture floated on the water. At Smith's brewery, on Market street, the flood came pouring through the building with large portions of the hill held in solution in it, and about a foot of debris was left on it, and it required the hardest efforts of the whole force of employees to prevent serious damage. As it was the loss was nothing.

These fragmentary cases show the character of the storm. No pen could describe an adequate description of it.

The river, which in fifty minutes rose three feet, had by midnight risen ten feet. Such a rise from a local rain is simply unprecedented in history. There being no rain below, the current was terrific. Shortly after midnight it began to fall.

THE NATURAL GAS MAINS.

Both the natural gas companies had their mains badly damaged, and the city was without gas fuel last night. The damage will possibly take several days to repair. Whole sections of pipe were washed away. The manufacturers all had to shut down last night, and many people will eat cold meals to-day. The main evokers of men feel heart sick and at once after the storm subsided with material for repairs, but the labor was attended with great difficulty, and it was even impracticable in most cases to reach the scenes of the trouble until a late hour last night.

THE DEADLY TORRENT.

Caldwell's Run Sweeps Nine Persons Away to Their Death.

The real horror of the situation brought about by the terrible storm began to be felt before the terrific rain fall had ceased, when there came from the lower portion of the city vague rumors to the effect that in addition to the destruction of nearly everything of value along the line of Caldwell's run, there had been serious loss of life. It was not long till the certainty of such a disaster was confirmed and that in a way that made the evokers of men feel heart sick and distracted, for not only were there two of these lives lost as at first reported, but it is almost certain that nine lives were swallowed up in the awful torrent that, with irresistible force, swept from the hills through the city to a level quiet run winds its way, through the country and city to the river, causing destruction the most dire.

The homes of these nine unfortunate were swept away, and as no trace has been found, it is probable that they were last night, there is scarcely any doubt but what they have perished.

APPEALING SCENES.

A reporter of the INTELLIGENCER started for Caldwell's run as soon as the storm would permit and reached the Eoff street crossing shortly before 8 o'clock. The scenes presented, even as viewed in the darkening gloom that had settled down, were most appalling. The waters had fallen considerably, but the run was still swollen to a level usually reached after ordinary heavy storms. There was nothing to obstruct its course as with sullen roaring the waters rushed to the river, for the reason that it had carried everything before it almost to the very end.

Both the Chapline street and Eoff street bridges, together with their abutments, were gone, and the Woods street bridge was in such a weakened condition that it was dangerous to cross, especially in the darkness.

DARKNESS IN THE EIGHTH WARD.

South of the run all was darkness, all the gas mains having been broken by the destruction of the bridges. The Eighth ward was in total darkness, and the only illumination to be had was that obtained from what candles, lamps and lanterns could be purchased at the stores.

Not only was this large ward without gas fuel, but like the balance of the city, it was without natural gas for fuel, and to add to the gravity of the situation the carrying away of the bridges also broke the water mains so that the people of that section were without water. Mr. Hoffman, of the Water Board, was on the ground early and at once sent orders to Superintendent Riddle to get a force of men ready to get to work on the big twenty-inch main as soon as the water subsided, and to have it cut at the lower end of the city might be supplied with water as early as possible. It is thought by men to-day that the water service will be in such shape that the consumers will not be longer deprived of that necessity.

OH, WHO WAS THAT SUBSTITUTE.

DISTRACTED PEOPLE.

Gathered on what was left of the Eoff street brick pavement between Twenty-eighth street and where the bridge stood was a large and excited throng of men and women, discussing the calamity. Those who had watched the destruction from a safe point said that the waters seemed to come in a solid wall that over-leaped the banks of the run and carried everything before it. It was not a gradual rise, giving warning to those in exposed places, but it came all at once.

They had seen this overpowering wall of water crash through the city carrying with it homes, outhouses, barns, cows, horses and hogs and debris of every kind and description.

COFFINED DEAD IN THE FLOOD.

Men shuddered as they told of having seen persons carried down by the awful torrent waving their hands for help that could not be extended to them.

Others told gruesome tales about seeing coffins in the awful tide, that had been washed out of the cemeteries and floated down the river, but these stories were not generally credited till shortly after midnight, when men at the street car stables on the watchout for bodies that might float past, pulled out of the river a coffin containing a ghastly corpse.

THE LOSS OF LIFE.

There was, however, no disputing of the stories about the loss of life. Too many people saw human forms floating past and men coming down from the run confirmed the truth of these stories. The house of Herman Stenzel, a well known milkman, was destroyed, and the supposition is that he, his mother, a girl by the name of Stenzel, and a girl named Withers, who was visiting at the house, were the three of them whatever could be found.

A man named John Hohman was seen endeavoring to go from his house to the house of the Stenzels on a raft. The raft capsized and Hohman has not been seen since.

A CRAZED FATHER.

Mr. Thomas Howley, a man about 50 years old, formerly a well-known iron worker here, is the only one that escaped out of his family of four. He in

(Continued on Fourth Page.)

THE GREATEST DEBATE

Of the Generation is Finished and the Mills Bill

IS REPORTED FAVORABLY

To the House by the Committee of the Whole—The Vote to be Taken Saturday and it will Pass, of course—Now for the Senate.

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 19.—After a little routine business, the House went into Committee of the Whole (Mr. Springer, of Illinois, in the chair) on the Tariff bill, the pending amendment being that offered by Mr. Mills, of Texas, restoring the present rate of duty on tobacco.

Mr. LaFollette, of Wisconsin, thought the motion made by Mr. Mills was not actuated by any sympathy for the domestic tobacco industry. The amendment was offered, not because of any consideration for the industry or because the farmers wanted protection, but because the amendment was necessary to help the Democratic party carry Connecticut.

Mr. Mills' amendment was then agreed to without division.

On motion of Mr. Spinoia, of New York, the present rate of duty was restored on pipes, cigars and cigars, and speakers' articles not otherwise provided for.

The next few items were passed over quickly, and amendments restoring the present rate of duty on the various articles were voted down without division.

Mr. Springer, of Illinois, having called Mr. Dockery, of Missouri, to the chair, addressed the committee in regard to the bill. He stated for the information of the members that twenty-three days and eight evening sessions had been consumed in general debate, one hundred and fifty speeches having been made. The debate under the five minute rule had consumed up to-day twenty-eight days, or one hundred and twenty hours. The debate would be remembered as the most remarkable which had ever occurred in parliamentary history. It had awakened a lively interest not only in our country, but throughout the civilized world, and henceforth it would be known as the great tariff debate of 1888. He then proceeded to argue in support of the free wool feature of the bill.

He justified the President's message upon the subject and argued that the total tariff burden to people on account of protection of woolen goods would amount to \$170,000,000 in 1888. The reduction of wool or its abolition had more frequently resulted in increasing the price of raw wool than in reducing it. The duty being taken off the foreign product a greater proportion of free wool would be used.

Mr. Springer spoke of the benefits that free wool would bring to the laboring man, the subject and to every branch of industry.

Mr. Dingley, of Maine, ridiculed Mr. Springer's arguments and said that Protection had developed

THE WOLLY INDUSTRY, and if not broken down, it would soon enable our farmers to produce all the wool consumed in the country.

Mr. Reed, of Maine, contrasted the appearance of the Democrats at the beginning of the tariff debate with that which they presented to-day, when they were a minority. Throughout the whole debate not a single speech was delivered on the other side which did not contain the principles of free trade.

The gentleman from Illinois, Mr. Springer, had some new idea that he was a free trader, and that he was a free trader himself. Why were the gentlemen so anxious to show that they were not so much in favor of Free Trade? Why was it that the Chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means (that lofty and courtly citizen of Texas who had gone to explain his views everywhere) had gone to New York and declared that there need be no fear of Free Trade?

Mr. Springer had hoped that in these last moments of the debate there would have been the kindest feelings prevailing. But the gentleman from Maine (Mr. Reed) had showed his usual peculiarity of sneering and sowing the seeds of discord.

Mr. Hoffman, of the Water Board, was on the ground early and at once sent orders to Superintendent Riddle to get a force of men ready to get to work on the big twenty-inch main as soon as the water subsided, and to have it cut at the lower end of the city might be supplied with water as early as possible. It is thought by men to-day that the water service will be in such shape that the consumers will not be longer deprived of that necessity.

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WEST VIRGINIA MATTERS

In Washington—A Lost Woman Not Found. A War Claim—Postal Change.

Special Dispatch to the Intelligencer.

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 19.—Benjamin S. Thompson has been confirmed as postmaster at Hinton. The nomination had been pending several weeks.

After thoroughly scouring the city, the Washington police have notified W. F. Jones, of Wheeling, that Mrs. Hannah Herbert is not here. Mr. Jones had requested that the search be made.

The claim of the Martinsburg German Evangelical Church, which has been pending fifteen years or longer before Congress has come back to the Senate calendar with a favorable report submitted by Mr. Faulkner. The amount involved is \$2,500, an indemnity for a church building burned by Union soldiers in 1863.

The time schedule between Belton and New Martinsville has been changed so that mails leave Belton on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 7 a. m., returning on Saturdays at 7 a. m.

William G. Worley, of Kingwood, is registered at the National.

GROSSLY INCOMPETENT.

Investigation of the Iowa State Railroad Commissioner.

DES MOINES, Ia., July 19.—Some surprising disclosures are resulting from the course of the attorneys for the Rock Island and Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Northern roads, taking testimony to learn how competent the State Railroad Commissioners are to fix the rates.

Their examination of Mr. Ainsworth, the Secretary of the Board, developed many extraordinary facts as to the careless and hasty manner in which the commissioners had been accustomed to conduct the inquiry. The secretary admitted that in one instance he changed the official schedule after it had come from their State printer, and he claimed he did so at the request of one commissioner, not by direction of the three.

An examination of his official records also showed that it was common for official action to be taken by direction of one of the Captains of any class. There was no concerted plan of action, but it was agreed that when all preparations were made, he and two others were to be informed by Hronek at the door just what they were to do in the way of averting the dead martyr.

The men were supplied with bombs and dynamite. He had the stuff in his house for almost a week and grew so afraid that it would be discovered that he made away with it by throwing it into a river.

The confession that Inspector Bonfield received. By his confession it is understood Chleeboun has virtually secured immunity from prosecution. He is in reality much less guilty than either of the other two. He will give his testimony in open court, where it will corroborate the other evidence. Two other men are still at large, but may be arrested at any time.

THE BURLINGTON CASES.

The Alleged Dynamite Heist in Ball Room and Alibi.

After an earnest address by each of the two lawyers for the defense in the Burlington dynamite cases to-day, Commissioner Hayne said: "The prosecution has presented a good probable case against the prisoners, and I should not be performing my duty unless I referred the charges against all the prisoners to the grand jury. It is for the grand jury to pass upon the men's guilt or innocence. The jury will decide that."

A LARGE ESTATE.

The Will of Phil Armour's Father-in-Law, Jonathan Ogden.

CINCINNATI, O., July 19.—Yesterday morning the will of Jonathan Ogden was filed in the Probate Court. In addition to the fact that Mr. Ogden was one of the old citizens of this city, he was also well known as the father-in-law of the pork packer millionaire, Phil Armour, of Chicago. Mr. Armour married the only daughter of Mr. Ogden.

Years ago Mr. Ogden was in the merchant tailoring business in St. Louis. He had a fortune of about \$100,000, consisting chiefly of real estate in this city and Chicago.

By the terms of the will the property is given in trust to the two sons of the deceased, P. G. and Frank Ogden, and Phil Armour. They are to hold it in trust for the three children and heirs for seven years, at which time the real estate is to be divided equally between the three heirs, the two sons and the daughter. In the mean time they are to enjoy the profits of it.

The two sons are the executors. Mr. Armour was a very rich man, but being a non-resident could not qualify.

A PECULIAR ACCIDENT.

Theatre Attracts Terribly Burned With Sulphuric Acid, While Fumigating.

St. Louis, July 19.—A peculiar accident occurred at the Standard Theatre last evening, resulting in the probably fatal burning of Ed Hill and Michael Dwyer, aged 19 and 21 respectively and the severe injury of several other attendees of the theatre. The men were engaged in fumigating the theatre with sulphuric acid, which Hill and Dwyer were pouring from stone jugs. Both jugs exploded at once, scattering the acid in every direction, saturating the clothing of the young men who were pouring the acid, and burning their faces. Hill and Dwyer, nearly crazed with pain, ran through the streets followed by a crowd until caught by a policeman and taken to the City Dispensary, where their burns were dressed and they were sent home. In their fright they had torn almost all their clothing off and reached the Dispensary nearly nude. Other wounded men were able to go to the Dispensary without assistance, but they are severely injured.

After Ives and Staylor.

New York, July 20.—W. H. Pugh, Prosecuting Attorney for Hamilton county, Ohio, is in the city trying to get his hands on Ives and Staylor.

When he arrived at the Fifth Avenue Hotel yesterday, he found a telegram from Albany awaiting him that counsel for Ives and Staylor had filed objections to the granting of a requisition, consequently he did not stay at the hotel.

He took the 3:30 p. m. train for Albany, where he hoped to argue the matter and overcome the objections.

He Scratched His Head.

Des Moines, Iowa, July 19.—At Osceola yesterday an engine of the narrow gauge road from this place and a Burlington engine stood at right angles. The narrow gauge engineer scratched his head, which was said to signify that a scab is about. The Burlington engineer drew a revolver and fired at the other, but missing him the ball broke a mirror in a house near by. The narrow gauge engineer then placed his engine across the Burlington track and secured his assailant's arrest.

CHLEBOUN CONFESSES

To the Scheme to Blow Up Gary, Grinnell and Bonfield.

THE WHOLE PLOT LAID BARE

And a Fiendish Dynamite Conspiracy Appears to have been on Foot. He will Confirm his Story in Open Court To-day.

CHICAGO, July 19.—Frank Chleeboun, the brown-haired, blue-eyed, sweet-voiced fellow, who, with John Hronek and Frank Chepak, schemed to murder Judge Gary, Judge Grinnell and Inspector Bonfield, has made a full and complete confession. Chleeboun was not locked up at the Army yesterday, as were the other two, and when Chepak was taken to the Central Station and Hronek to jail, Chleeboun was sent to an outlying police station. He was not subjected, as were the others, to the ordeal of having his picture taken for the rogues' gallery.

Last night Inspector Bonfield, accompanied by two of his Bohemian secret service operatives, clad in workmen's suits with soft black hats and blue flannel shirts, visited the innocent looking prisoner. The preceding day he had intimated that he was ready to tell what he knew and last evening the Inspector went to hear his story. Through the interpreters Chleeboun went into the whole story from his first meeting with Hronek and Chepak. His confession was that Hronek had unfolded his plans for revenge and had told of a bomb which he (Hronek) had invented. It was small, and was to be loaded with dynamite and was to be thrown by Chleeboun. The plot was to murder the judges and inspector. That is what we heard of no such definite scheme. We were talked of, as was Capt. Schack, and he understood he was to pay more attention to the Captain than to any one else. There was no concerted plan of action, but it was agreed that when all preparations were made, he and two others were to be informed by Hronek at the door just what they were to do in the way of averting the dead martyr.

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A GANG OF YOUNG THIEVES

Unearthed in Cincinnati—Bolt Robberies Committed by Them.

CINCINNATI, O., July 19.—Yesterday three boys not over thirteen years old, were arrested near the Exposition buildings, where they had been observed attempting to pick pockets of strangers. Late last evening they made a confession, and by their own statements showed that they were members of a regularly organized band of young thieves. The gang was composed of Bundy Wainwright, the leader, Linsey Murphy, Walter Harris, Willie Mudders and the prisoners. Their ages range from twelve to eighteen years. Dixon, one of the prisoners, stated that the gang had been picking pockets and tapping tills all over the city. Several days ago they made a round and tapped the till of the drug store at the corner of Clark and Haymiller streets. From there they went to Freeman, near Ochler street, where they tapped the till of a grocery. From this point they went to the saloon at the corner of Highland and Baymiller streets, and relieved the till of its contents. From here they worked northward, the next place being the saloon at Franklin avenue and Liberty street. Here they succeeded in getting several dollars in change.

The gang, according to the prisoner's statements, even went so far as to organize a raid on the Second National Bank, at Ninth and Main streets. It was arranged that three of the gang should visit the place about closing time, and while the others spoke as a sham fight the third was to clamber over the iron railing or get through a door and grab a bundle of money. The boys visited the place twice, but each time a blue coat happened to be in the neighborhood, and the boys were driven away.

The case is one of the most peculiar brought to the attention of the police in the history of the world. It is a case of a gang of young thieves who have been going on for some time may follow.

BEAUTIFUL WIDOW STETSON

Seeks in Vain for Her Lost Lover, and Appeals in Court for Satisfaction.

New York, July 18.—The society columns of the New York Press in the latter part of March announced the engagement of Mr. D. Sidney Appleton, Jr., and Mrs. Stetson, a wealthy and beautiful young widow of Nassau, New Providence. The engagement is now broken off and a breach of promise suit is threatened. Mr. Appleton is the son of D. Sidney Appleton, of the well-known publishing house of D. Appleton & Co., and Mrs. Stetson is the widow of a late Mr. Stetson, a wealthy man of Nassau, New Providence. The engagement is now broken off and a breach of promise suit is threatened. Mr. Appleton is the son of D. Sidney Appleton, of the well-known publishing house of D. Appleton & Co., and Mrs. Stetson is the widow of a late Mr. Stetson, a wealthy man of Nassau, New Providence. The engagement is now broken off and a breach of promise suit is threatened.

How could King James transfer the title of this great continent across the Atlantic when he did not know there was a continent? There was one title which has always been acknowledged by civilized nations, and that is the law of conquest. [Applause.] That law which lays hold of a possession and holds on till somebody else can take it from him. Therefore it is that when the New York Yankees in Connecticut claim that they ceded it; but, my country